

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: January 23, 2012

To: Children and Families Interim Committee via Bill Warden

From: John H. Goodnow, CEO, Benefis Health System 

RE: Your Meeting On January 23, 2012

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We spend too much on healthcare in our country. We all know that and we know that public healthcare spending contributes to the horrid financial situation of our national government, and many state governments.

We also know that there are wide disparities in healthcare outcomes (quality) and healthcare cost between States and between organizations within States. If we are able to move the poorer performers (in outcomes/quality and in cost) – among the States and among organizations within a single State – think of the huge difference it would make.

Stating what we know is easy. Not so easy, in fact downright difficult, is what do we do, how do we do it and what is the right timing? These questions are the questions we face nationally, and within our own State.

What we see, as we face these difficult questions, is the tendency for different health care interest groups (including hospitals, physicians and specialty groups), while recognizing the problems, to ask that they not be cut or changed rather than offering workable solutions or helping to craft the solutions. That is unfortunate.

I certainly don't have the answers, but Benefis Health System stands ready to work with your Committee, the Legislature and our state agencies as we seek answers and workable solutions.

I'm sorry that I was not able to join you as you had requested and I hope you have a good and productive meeting today.

Thank you,

JHG:ycb

CHILDREN & FAMILIES INTERIM COMMITTEE  
January 23, 2012  
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